

## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/PAN:JPBECKER:ZC

APPROVED BY IO:MR. BAKER

ARA/PAN:SMBELL (SUBSTANCE)

IO/UNP:DSCHIELE

IO/UNP:GHELMAN

ARA - MR. SHLAUDEMAN

S/S:LMACFARLANE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 192535

EXDIS BRASILIA FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEWIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PFOR, UN, PN

SUBJECT: GOVERNOR SCRANTON'S MEETING WITH PANAMANIAN  
FOREIGN MINISTER BOYD

REFERENCES: A) PANAMA 5375; B) PANAMA 5377; C) PANAMA 5378;  
D) STATE 190452

1. IN COURSE OF MEETING WITH PANAMANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER  
BOYD AUGUST 4, WE SUGGEST THAT GOVERNOR SCRANTON CONVEY  
HIS ANALYSIS OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR DOMESTIC PO-  
LITICAL PROCESS AND PANAMA'S EFFORTS TO GAIN SUPPORT IN  
COLOMBO AND AT THE UNGA ON THE PANAMA CANAL QUESTION.  
GOVERNOR SCRANTON MAY ALSO WISH TO DRAW UPON AMBASSADOR  
JORDEN'S ARGUMENTS STATED IN PANAMA'S 5375.

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2. GOVERNOR SCRANTON MIGHT FURTHER COMMENT AS FOLLOWS:

-- WE KNOW THAT PANAMA REALIZES THE DELICATE POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES IN AN ELECTION YEAR, AND HAVE ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS EXPRESSED OUR APPRECIATION FOR PANAMANIAN RESTRAINT.

--SHARP CRITICISM OF THE UNITED STATES AT THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE ON THE CANAL NEGOTIATIONS WOULD RESULT IN A REACTION HERE WHICH WOULD BE ADVERSE TO PANAMANIAN INTERESTS.

--SIMILARLY, INTEMPERATE STATEMENTS AND ACRIMONIOUS DEBATE IN THE UNGA COULD WELL IMPEDE PROGRESS TOWARD

-- THE COMPLETION AT AN EARLY DATE OF A NEW TREATY WHICH CAN BE RATIFIED BY BOTH THE US AND PANAMA.

--THE SIMPLE FACT IS THAT THE COUNTRY WHICH CAN PROVIDE WHAT PANAMA SEEKS IS THE UNITED STATES. THE WAY TO ACHIEVE AN EVENTUAL AGREEMENT IS THROUGH NEGOTIATION -- NOT THROUGH RHETORIC. INTERVENTIONS BY THIRD PARTIES ARE OF TANGENTIAL IMPORTANCE AT BEST. HARSHLY WORDED RESOLUTIONS AND CRITICAL RHETORIC ARE NOT CONSTRUCTIVE AND MAY WELL BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE.

--DISCUSSION OF THE CANAL ISSUE IN THE UNITED STATES OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS MAY HAVE HAD THE EFFECT OF EDUCATING SOME AMERICANS BUT THIS DISCUSSION HAS ALSO HARDENED THE VIEWS OF OTHERS. WE WOULD CAUTION AGAINST UNDERESTIMATING THE NEGATIVE EFFECT THAT FURTHER DISCUSSION OF THIS ISSUE CAN HAVE HERE.

--WE URGE PANAMA, IF IT FEELS IT HAS TO RAISE THE CANAL ISSUE AT COLOMBO, TO ASSURE THAT ANY RESOLUTION IS MODERATE IN TONE AND ALONG THE LINES OF THE OAS RESOLUTION WHICH RECEIVED UNANIMOUS SUPPORT OF THE HEMISPHERE.

--WHILE WE WOULD NOT PRESUME TO ADVISE PANAMA AS TO WHAT IT MIGHT SAY IN THE UNGA GENERAL DEBATE, WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND IT RECONSIDER THE IDEA OF SEEKING COMMENTS BY OTHERS OR STIMULATING A SPECIAL DEBATE ON THE ISSUE AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NONALIGNED NATIONS, MEETINGS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, NEGOTIATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 AUG 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** buchant0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976STATE192535  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** JPBECKER:ZC  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760299-0632  
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**Image Path:**  
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**Line Count:** 107  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN SS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** 76 PANAMA 5375, 76 PANAMA 5377, 76 PANAMA 5378  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** buchant0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 19 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <19 MAY 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <27 OCT 2004 by buchant0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GOVERNOR SCRANTON'S MEETING WITH PANAMANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER BOYD  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PN, US, PQ, UN, (BOYD, AQUILINO E)  
**To:** USUN NEW YORK  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006